

High Holidays Move to First Congregational Church

All High Holiday services, except second-day Rosh Hashanah, will be held at the First Congregational Church, 495 Post Street, at Mason. (Wheelchair access is around the corner at 432 Mason St.) Parking regulations cannot be relaxed in the neighborhood; you will have to carpool, use public transportation or use a garage. The church is located near the 38 Geary bus line and the Powell Street MUNI/BART station. If you prefer to drive, you may wish to park at the Downtown Center Garage (Mason and O'Farrell), the Sutter Stockton Garage or the Handlery Union Square Hotel (351 Geary). For those needing a snack, there are plenty of restaurants nearby on Geary Boulevard.

Second-day Rosh Hashanah services will be held at CSZ, 220 Danvers Street.

Erev Rosh Hashanah

Wednesday, October 1

Ma'ariv 7:30 pm

Junior Congregation 7:30 pm

Rosh Hashanah

Thursday, October 2

Shacharit 9:30 am

Preschool Service 10 am

Junior Congregation 10:45 am

Junior Chug 11:45 am

Friday, October 3

Shacharit 9:30 am

Annual Cemetery Visit

Sunday, October 5

Hills of Eternity, Colma 10 am

Kol Nidre

Friday, October 10

Ma'ariv 7:30 pm

Junior Congregation 7:30 pm

Yom Kippur

Saturday, October 11

Shacharit 9:30 am

Preschool Service 10 am

Junior Congregation 10:45 am

Junior Chug 11:45 am

Mincha 3:30 pm

Reading of the Names 4:30 pm

Yizkor 5:45 pm

Neilah 6:30 pm

Main sanctuary doors open at 6:30

pm for Erev Rosh Hashanah and Kol Nidre.

Ticket Policy

Tickets were mailed in September to members in good standing. This means you have paid your 1996-97 dues and 1997 Building Assessment and the first installment of your 1997-98 dues or have made arrangements with the Dues Committee. Order forms for guest tickets were mailed out in August. Additional tickets for nonmembers are available from the office. This year all worshippers will be accommodated in the main sanctuary. Seating is on a first-come, first-served basis, so you may wish to arrive early. All guest and nonmember tickets cost \$54 for Rosh Hashanah and \$54 for Yom Kippur.

Tickets are required for all seats at all services. There are separate passes for Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur services. These will not be collected by the ushers, but must be shown for admission to all services, both evening and daytime.

Yom Kippur Tikkunim (Discussion Groups)

There will be tikkunim (discussion groups) on Yom Kippur day from 1:15 to 2:45. Tentatively, the topics and leaders are as follows.

- **Niggun (Chanting):** Jos Singer, Bon Singer, Jonathan Pannor, and/or Dev Felder Noily

- **Alternative Families:** Tiela Chalmers, Eileen Levy, Ron Lezell and others

- **T'shuvah (Repentance/Return):** Rabbi Jane Litman

- **Spirituality and Daily Life:** Avi Rose

- **Healing:** Karen Erlichman and Jason Gaber

- **Feminism, Spirituality and Judaism:** Ruthy Talansky

Onegs and Break Fast

Please join us for an oneg after Erev Rosh Hashanah services at the First Congregational Church. In place of an oneg after Rosh Hashanah daytime services, bring a bag lunch and join us at Fort

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Bid Farewell to Danvers Street

October 26 is our last day of occupancy at 220 Danvers Street. For many of us, departing our Danvers Street home to move to our new Dolores Street synagogue leaves us feeling sad, excited and a bit anxious all at the same time. There are two events planned for the community to come together to share these feelings, to celebrate this exciting moment in our synagogue's history and say good-bye to the first "Home of Our Own."

Simchat Torah Festivities

Simchat Torah services, led by Tiela Chalmers, Daniel Chesir and Ora Prochovnick, will be held on October 22 at 7 pm at Danvers Street. A consecration ceremony, welcoming students who are starting or are new to the Kadimah program, will be part of the festive services.

Following the service, at approximately 9 pm, the congregation will carry the Torahs down 18th Street from Danvers Street to our new building at 290 Dolores Street in a procession led by our Klezmer band, *Gay Iz Mir*. At the end of the procession, we will have a brief celebration with noshes, singing and dancing in our new building!

Final Shabbat Service

Friday, October 24 will be our last Shabbat Service at Danvers Street. Dev Noily and Jonathan Pannor will lead services and Rabbi Litman will give a farewell sermon. Following services we will celebrate our move at a special Oneg Shabbat. We will dance into the streets to the Klezmer music of *Gay iz Mir*.

Correction

A hearty thank you must be extended to Bill Denebeim, who, along with his partner, Mark Vogel, donated one of the round-trip tickets to Israel given away as a prize in the Mishkan Dolores raffle. Thank you Bill, and sorry for the omission last month!

New Year's Resolutions

As I sit down to write this column, I am thinking about the upcoming High Holidays, and what they mean to us as Jews, and as members of CSZ. All the obvious things come to mind; a time to review and take stock of the year just completed; a chance to make amends and begin anew; a chance to renew our commitments to ourselves and each other. How, I ask myself, does this differ from the secular new year? Every year I resolve to do better in a list of New Year's Eve resolutions. Each secular new year I vow to lose weight, be on time, drive more safely and not count the items of the person in front of me at the grocery store. While these are all good and useful things, they do not, by themselves, make me a better Jew. I do not need to share my annual list of new year's resolutions with anyone else, and indeed, if I did I would not be able to recycle them. While I also do not share my inner conversations during the High Holidays, there is a difference. During the Jewish new year, I do a different kind of self evaluation and review. For me, because I do this review and examination in a communal and spiritual context, it is deeper and speaks more to what I consider my basic being.

In thinking about the more personal aspects of this time of year, who I am as a person, how what I do reflects my basic beliefs about myself and the world around me, and why I do what I do, I change the focus from external changes to internal changes. Why I do what I do, and what I hope will result from the actions I take, become the focus of my evaluation. It is not so much a question of what I hope to gain in terms of the world outside of me, but what I hope to gain as a person.

As a part of my annual self-examination I must admit that I have fallen short. I use this time of year to evaluate whether my goals are realistic; whether my intentions were pure and my motives clear, even though the result may not have been what I had intended. Unlike the secular new year, where I can



Diana Buchbinder

use the same list of resolutions from year to year, in this annual self evaluation I am often able to finish my review with a sense of accomplishment, a sense that I have made progress and am able to continue making progress towards a better self.

A recent comment by my son brings home the point for me. He initiated a conversation on the topic of how being Jewish informed his identity (although he would deny this was his intention). He told me that he felt bound by his religion to evaluate even his everyday decisions in a Jewish context, and that he was not convinced that his peers did the same. The best advice I could offer him was to continue to use the evaluative system which was serving him well and not to worry about what system others were using — perhaps the equivalent of not counting the grocery items.

The past year has been one of adjustment.
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Early Kabbalat Shabbat Services

—Lyssa Friedman

Do you miss Shabbat services because your first-grader needs her bedtime story long before the opening niggun? Are you a commuter who finds that even a Friday dinner in the Castro can't keep you occupied until *Hinei Ma Tov*? Do you collapse after a 60-hour week and by *Shalom Aleichem*, all you're up for is to dial Waiters on Wheels?

Then join us for early Kabbalat Shabbat services the first Friday of each month at 7 pm. During this complete *ma'ariv* service, our smaller size allows room for adults to *daven* and children to either sing along or spread out along the back pew.

Light Shabbat candles. Recite the *Shema*. Say *Kaddish*. And chant *Oseh Shalom* in time to put the kids to bed or to join friends for dinner.

Please help us welcome Shabbat.

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Think of all the reasons a child you love would benefit from a learning experience in Israel. You, along with family and friends can begin saving for that trip to Israel with the help of **Gift of Israel**.

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Learn more about The **Gift of Israel**. Call the Jewish Community Federation at 415.512.6216 for details.

Gift of Israel is part savings program, part scholarship, part grant. Most of all, it's a partnership between a child's family and friends, the Jewish Community Federation and participating synagogues. Each of the partners contributes to a savings account each year toward a valuable goal: an Israel Experience in the child's high school years.

An Ending and a Beginning

The High Holy Days are upon us, when we take time out of everyday reality to meditate on spiritual concerns. Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur are powerful days which draw us to our Jewish community in prayer, thanksgiving and re-evaluation of the deep meaning of our lives. The Holy Days, however, do not end with Yom Kippur. Our celebratory break fast dinner is merely the midpoint of this



Rabbi Jane Litman

season of Jewish observance. Too often, in our commitment to the New Year and Day of Atonement, we pass by the later holy days of Sukkot and Simchat Torah.

This is a shame. The High Holy Days are a spiritual road, not a destination in themselves. Rosh Hashanah celebrates renewal and communal ingathering; Yom Kippur brings us insight and personal direction (an aside—this year Yom Kippur falls on National Coming Out Day, quite the *bashert* timing); Sukkot proclaims our harmony with the natural world; and Simchat Torah culminates this holy period with a joyous rededication to the cycle of Torah learning.

The two latter Holy Days are particularly special for our congregation this year. Simchat Torah will be our final holiday in the Danvers sanctuary. In addition to the traditional *hakafot* (processions) with our torahs, we will use this occasion to consecrate our school age children to the mitzvah of learning, and say farewell to our current wonderful congregational home. An ending and a beginning...

During Sukkot, I'd like to invite all of you to a potluck on October 19 at my family's new home in the East Bay. It's a bit of a work in progress, but the yard is lovely, and the transitional quality of midmove chaos is particularly appropriate to a holiday which celebrates the Jewish journey in the wilderness of Sinai. (Members please call the office for directions to Rabbi Litman's home.)

Speaking of that chaos, an architect (a friend of a friend) came over to give us advice on how to renovate the house. He turned out to be an elderly Jewish

man, a Holocaust survivor. He and I got into a friendly conversation about theology and life. It somehow came up that I was a rabbi. "For what congregation?" he asked.

"Sha'ar Zahav," I answered.

"Is that the uh uh uh congregation?" He was visibly nervous and uncomfortable.

I have heard this particular response many times as rabbi of Kol Simcha. "Yup," I replied smiling, "the GAY congregation." I waited for one of two usual responses, and I wasn't disappointed.

"I think my ladyfriend's son might like your synagogue." He attempts a smile.

"Well why don't all three of you come? It's a very warm and welcoming place. We like everyone."

"Maybe we will." Now he manages a real smile.

"I'll be looking for you." We shake hands warmly—a connection made.

This is often a time when Jews, particularly gay and progressive Jews, need a spiritual home and don't know where to turn. Each of us is fortunate to have that home in CSZ. We are blessed that we may share this good fortune with others. Please reach out during these Holy Days and bring those you know who might be uplifted to our communal worship and celebration.

Love in the Park

On August 24, a few dozen Sha'ar Zahavniks celebrated Tu b'Av, the Jewish festival of love, with members of Congregation Sherith Israel in Golden Gate Park. The warm sun, Klezmer music and yummy food enhanced the celebration. Some of the more energized participants tie-died t-shirts to donate to homeless children; others participated in Israeli dancing, or played volleyball.

Not only was the event a relaxing day in the sun, but it was also an opportunity for members of the two synagogues to meet. We thank Sherith Israel for inviting us to take part. We also thank the Castro Theater, A Different Light Bookstore and Sweet Inspirations Bakery for donating raffle prizes.

New Israel Fund to Honor Ron Lezell

On October 18, the New Israel Fund will honor CSZ's Ron Lezell, as well as Rabbi Michael Barenbaum and Rita Semel, both long-time friends of CSZ, for their commitment to religious freedom, tolerance and social justice. Since the late 1980s, Ron has worked tirelessly on behalf of ARZA, the Association of Reform Zionists of America, including serving as regional president. The tribute will take place at the Fund's annual Guardian of Democracy Dinner, held at the Hotel Nikko in San Francisco.

Rabbi Alexander Schindler, President Emeritus of the UAHC, will be the guest speaker and recipient of a special award. Col. (Res.) Mordechai Bar-On, former member of the Knesset, will host the evening's program.

The New Israel Fund believes that ensuring Israel's peaceful and democratic future means building a society dedicated to equality, pluralism and the rule of law. For information, contact Susan Wolfe of the New Israel Fund at 928-1114 or fundrais@sirius.com.

CSZ Book Group to Host Judith Katz

Did you know that CSZ has a book group? The group meets once a month to discuss a novel with a gay, lesbian and/or Jewish theme and is currently looking for new members.

On the evening of November 3, the group is honored to host author Judith Katz for a discussion of her most recent book, *The Escape Artist*. Set in the brothels and gangster dens of Jewish Buenos Aires at the beginning of the 20th century, *The Escape Artist* catapults the reader into the lives of Sofia Teitelbaum and a handsome, mysterious magician, Hankus — formerly Hannah — Lubar-sky, as they somersault, tumble and spin their way into an imagined lesbian future together.

Katz is widely published in literary journals and anthologies and won the 1993 Lambda Literary Award for Best Lesbian Fiction for her first novel, *Running Fiercely Toward a High Thin Sound*.

All are welcome. Call Mark Mackler at 826-8733 to RSVP and get location information.

Children's Education Board

Minutes of September 8, 1997 meeting

Rabbi Bergadine delivered the d'var Torah.

1. Enrollment—Currently 39 students (ten in Nitzanim, of whom five are from new member families, eight Chalutzim, eight Chaverim, seven Rishonim, six B'nai Mitzvah). There may be a few more students enrolling. A roster by class and zip code (to facilitate carpooling) will soon be distributed. As enrollment is slightly below projections, there was some concern about dropouts, given the number of changes going on at CSZ, including the new venue, farther from the East Bay. We felt that a mid-year evaluation from parents will be needed and other proactive reasons to get parents to show up need to be provided, eg. carpooling, Torah study, coffee shmoozing on Clement, mentoring of new families, class Shabbat dinner follow-up. Opening day of Kadimah was felt to be a success with thanks to Rabbi Bergadine and the volunteering parents.

2. CEB makeup—In place, except for the Va'ad representative. Still an ad-hoc committee appointed by the CSZ President, discussion ensued as to how fu-

ture openings on the CEB should be filled. Ruth Rainero will draft a proposed policy. It was agreed that each class will have a liaison to the CEB: Nitzanim (Howard Herman), Chalutzim (Rena Frantz), Chaverim (Stacey Shuster), Rishonim (Byron Sigal), B'nai Mitzvah (Mary Morgan).

3. Scholarship Policy—Beginning with the 1998-99 fiscal year, it is expected that the dues committee will look at the whole financial picture for a membership unit, to include dues and Kadimah. For this year, Rabbi Bergadine, together with Treasurer, Arthur Slepian and dues chair, Sara Haber, will evaluate each request individually, with knowledge of such request residing only with them.

4. Saturday vs. Sunday—The CEB will devote most of its next meeting to discussing the process by which this important and recurring subject should ultimately be decided for the school year beginning in 1998. It was agreed that a decision must be made well in advance of the end of this academic year, and for this decision, in the CSZ tradition, consensus should be a goal.

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Members of the congregation receive the *Forward*. For \$18/year, non-members will receive a *Forward* subscription.

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Display Ads are \$15 per column inch for nonmembers and \$10 per column inch for members, with discounts available for size and frequency. Ads should be camera ready; any ads that require typesetting, camera and/or artwork will be subject to a one-time production charge.

Classified Ads are \$5 for up to 20 words, plus \$1 for each 10 additional words. No personals accepted.

Payment must accompany ad and should be sent to Congregation Sha'ar Zahav, 220 Danvers at Caselli, San Francisco, California 94114, marked: attention *Forward* advertising. The *Forward* reserves the right to reject any ad for reasons of taste.

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Sukkot: A Human Being is a Tree of the Field

—by Nina Wouk
for the Ritual Committee

During Sukkot, Jews traditionally act out being trees waiting for rain. At each morning service every member of the congregation holds and repeatedly shakes the lulav, a bundle of palm frond, myrtle and willow. The rattle of the dry leaves, and the vegetation swaying around the worshippers' heads, turn the synagogue into a symbolic forest, full of the sound of falling rain. During the Amidah, the congregational responses are done not in unison, but softly, individually, simultaneously, each with its own beginning, timing and end, like the sound of many different trees in the same wind. This invocation of nature culminates in a change in the daily prayers: Immediately after Sukkot, the daily prayers mention wind blowing and rain falling.

Why has this symbolism endured for centuries? Not because it is natural. Even the Torah asks, sarcastically, in Deuteronomy 20:19, "Is a human being a tree of the field?" Why then does the symbolism of the lulav work?

A Chassidic rabbi, the Sefat Emet, made this paradoxical interpretation: On Sukkot, when we take hold of the lulav and become as trees, we also take hold of ourselves as human beings. This is because of Sukkot's double meaning: It is both a celebration of the natural world, and part of the three-week period of rededication that begins the Jewish year.

Sukkot is called, among other names, the "Feast of Ingathering," because in ancient times it culminated months of

harvests. On Sukkot, all the year's work was completed, all the year's crops were in, and people could finally return from their fields to their houses, carrying grain, the essential food for the coming year.

We, too, spend most of our days laboring in various metaphorical fields, such as offices, hospitals, restaurants and stores. We spend our working lives "out in the field," and it is a place of confusion. Merely keeping up with events is exhausting; we are often in a hurry, evaluating events, making decisions about how to act, not being sure we have decided correctly. When an event doesn't seem to call for immediate action, we often put off thinking about it. Thus we gather confusion in the field, and bring it home with us.

A field is not necessarily a cultivated place. In the Torah, "field" also means wilderness. Esau, for instance, was a "man of the field," a hunter, whose work was in the forest among wild animals. Defining statutory rape, Deuteronomy says "he found her in a field; the young woman cried and there was none to save her." A field is a place of danger, where we may call out for help and find none. This, too, is the nature of the working world; this is the field in which we, for all our spatial mobility, are rooted like trees.

The opposite of the field is the orchard, "pardes" in Hebrew, which symbolizes the Garden of Eden (Paradise), the wisdom to be gained through Torah study, and the protective divine presence in the world. A wild tree can't

choose to come in from the field, to enjoy shelter and safety in an orchard. We can, and Judaism insists that we should. Coming in from the field, the Sefat Emet wrote, we find our true place.

Finding one's true place in the world of family and community takes time. The first days of the year give us time to replace the old year's collected confusions with clarity. Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur allow us to clarify our values and relationships, to gather knowledge about ourselves and our place in the world. Sukkot is the opportunity to sort that harvest, to gather in the grain and leave the husks; to identify and retain spiritual and ethical food for the coming year.

Taking hold of the lulav, imagining ourselves as trees on Sukkot, we acknowledge the limits imposed by our biological natures and those imposed by our working environment. But as trees that have, miraculously, come in from the field, we are a uniquely conscious part of nature. By taking hold of our human opportunities, and our Jewish responsibilities, we can transcend those limits, taking hold of the best in ourselves.



Sukkot With the Young Ones

Toddlers, preschoolers and their families are invited to celebrate Sukkot with arts, crafts, singing and lunch on October 19 from 11:30 am to 1:30 pm in Rena Frantz, Ora, Tsipora and Shayna Prochovnik's Sukkah. For directions and to RSVP, call Renée in the CSZ office.



Muir Woods Service

On November 9, CSZ member Susan Simpson and the CSZ Environmental Action Committee, will be leading an environmental service project in Muir Woods. Keep your eyes out for more details. If you would like to participate, call Renée in the CSZ office.



Tu b'Av Celebration. Photo by Renee Bauer.

September Va'ad Minutes

Minutes from the July 28, 1997 Va'ad meeting were approved. Minutes from the June meeting were amended to reflect that Rose Katz is layout coordinator and Robin Leonard is editorial coordinator of the *Gaily Forward*.

Rabbi Litman reflected on the shofar service, noting that there are three parts, the first based on the theme of governance, the second on memory and history, and the third on attention. She then drew the conclusion that good governance stems from attention and continuity, and hoped that the Va'ad's actions would reflect this principle.

The Va'ad unanimously approved the membership of eight individuals and one family.

Financial Matters were addressed in preparation for a special congregational meeting that has been called for September 28 at 5:30 pm in the sanctuary on Danvers Street. Art Slepian walked the Va'ad through a year-end budget, monthly statements and a profit-and-loss statement. Slepian said in summation, "We ended the year in excellent financial condition."

Alice Prussin, Arthur Slepian and Tiela Chalmers received special recognition for their leadership and tireless work with regard to the new synagogue building. The Va'ad expressed its thanks to these three individuals and the entire Mishkan Dolores Architecture and Design committee.

Naches: Lisa Katz was congratulated on the occasion of her return from China with her new daughter.

Rabbi Litman's report led to a discussion of an interim policy to apply to all CSZ events where underage members may attend, or wish to attend. A policy of receiving written parental permission for events where teens are allowed and a

policy of exclusion from certain adult-centric events were reviewed, and will be further discussed at the next meeting.

Subventions were discussed by Diana Buchbinder. The Va'ad then created a permanent advisory group to review Kadimah scholarships, comprised of the educator (Rabbi Martha Bergadine), treasurer (Art Slepian) and a representative of the membership and dues committee (Sara Haber).

Lea Salem presented the Administrator's report. Because the Unitarian Church has not completed seismic renovations, Lea needed to quickly locate a new building for High Holy Days services. She found and engaged the Congregational Church on Post and Mason near Union Square. She received accolades for her quick and thorough work. Salem cautioned that parking there is difficult, so members will need to carpool and arrive early.

Renée Bauer gave the Program Director's report. She focused on several upcoming meetings and events: a meeting of parents and children under two years old; a women's mikveh visit; a certification program that engages interns twice monthly in assisting with junior congregational activities; a program entitled "It's cool to be Jewish" featuring David Stein, Rabbi Litman and Renée Bauer; and three social events that are in the planning stages.

The request to create La'atid was reviewed. The Va'ad supported the creation of La'atid within the by-laws and will review a concrete proposal at the next meeting.

Interim space is being sought for the time when we cannot rent-back Danvers and cannot yet move into Dolores.

The next Va'ad meeting is scheduled for October 13, 1997.

High Holidays

Continued from page 1

Point for a Seudat Mitzvah picnic before Tashlich. Maps will be available at the First Congregational Church.

Services at CSZ on the second day of Rosh Hashanah will be followed by an oneg. There will be a large break fast at the First Congregational Church after Neilah, the concluding service on Yom Kippur.

AIDS Food Drive

One of the reasons we fast on Yom Kippur is to remind ourselves of the hunger of those in need. As we have for the past eight years, CSZ will collect nonperishable food for Project Open Hand during Kol Nidre and through noon on Yom Kippur. Please bring a bag of food items as part of your Yom Kippur observance.

Children's Services

On the first day of Rosh Hashanah and on Yom Kippur, there will be two sets of services for our younger members.

Preschool services for children age five and under will be held on the first day of Rosh Hashanah, October 2, at 10 am and on Yom Kippur day, October 11, at 10 am. The services will be led by Rabbi Martha Bergadine and will be about 30 minutes long. Parents should pick their children up afterward or return them to childcare; parents are also welcome to attend the services with their children if they wish. Please note that children must be pre-registered for childcare (see below).

Junior Congregation services for kids aged seven to twelve will be held on Erev Rosh Hashanah and Kol Nidre at 7:30 pm, and on Rosh Hashanah day and Yom Kippur day at 10:45 am. These services will be about an hour long and will be led by older students and Rabbi Bergadine. At the conclusion of Junior

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One Conversion Path

—Tory Weiser

(Note: Tory Weiser, partner of CSZ member Robin Leonard, has just begun her conversion process and has agreed to share her thoughts and experiences with the congregation during her journey.)

I originally became interested in Jewish history in high school and college. I had a particularly vile childhood, and not only did I identify with the concentration camp and pogrom victims, but I also derived great comfort from those who survived. During those years, I read as many books as I could find on the Holocaust and the preceeding years for Jews in Europe. Once I had exhausted those books, my interest waned until a year and a half ago when I met my partner, Robin Leonard.

I began attending services at CSZ with Robin and again became interested in Judaism. The feeling of community, the ritual, the music and the Hebrew filled me with a sense of wonder and longing. It appealed to my spiritual beliefs in a way I had not felt among other spiritual groups. I felt as though a lock somewhere inside had opened and my sacred feelings were being touched. As a result, I took "A Jewish Sampler" class at Congregation Emanu-El this summer with Rabbi Helen Cohn. I was captivated by the sessions on Shabbat, Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, and the Torah and Mishnah. I began to understand that Judaism is more than just history, it's a celebration of God, life and survival. I wanted to include this celebration, Shabbat, the high holy days and tikkun olam in my life.

I decided, therefore, to convert to Judaism. I began the process in early September by enrolling in a 12-week "Introduction to Judaism" class at Congregation Emanu-El. In addition, I've met with Rabbi Litman to learn CSZ's requirements for conversion. These include the following: an "Introduction to Judaism" class; many readings from contemporary Jewish writers about the Jewish faith, conversion, how to live a Jewish life and women and Judaism; meetings with Rabbi Litman to discuss readings; establishing a personal Jewish lifestyle; learning to read Hebrew; joining a synagogue and selecting a tzedakah project. I was both excited and overwhelmed by the amount of work in front of me. She was quick to point out that there was no

deadline for my completing these tasks. My mentor and I would decide when I was ready to convert.

I've also met with Paul Cohen, who runs the conversion program at CSZ. His role is to match a person going through conversion with a CSZ member who serves as a mentor. He also meets regularly with conversion candidates to talk about their experiences, fears and questions. Paul helped pare down my reading list into something manageable, and listened to me as I talked about my life's spiritual journey and struggled to articulate the allure of Judaism. I felt a great sense of relief after talking with Paul. He helped clarify and make more realistic what I need to do before converting. Rabbi Litman and Paul Cohen are prepared to spend an enormous amount of time and effort to help me on my conversion journey, and I feel very thankful for their assistance.

☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆

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☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆

\$89,000 More To Go!

Mishkan Dolores Fundraising

—Ellie Cohen

The Mishkan Dolores Capital Campaign to purchase and renovate our new synagogue has been a great success to date. Pledges and donations total \$1,211,000 or 93% of our \$1.3 million goal! We are now just \$89,000 short—and we'll need every penny of that.

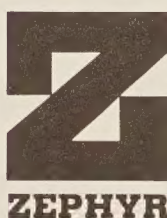
The exciting renovation of our new Mishkan at 16th and Dolores is starting to move ahead—an upstairs sanctuary fully remodeled with a raised roof and lots of natural light, new multipurpose rooms, expanded Kadimah space and new office space to accommodate our growing, thriving congregation.

If you haven't yet, please take time to make your pledge today and be part of this historic next step for CSZ. Remember, pledges can be paid out over five years, in monthly, quarterly or annual installments. If you have pledged already and are in position to consider giving more, please let us know. Give us a call at the synagogue office to talk with a representative of the Mishkan Dolores Capital Campaign committee.

To date, over \$60,000 of the total pledged has come from friends, family members and community supporters. We encourage you to reach out and invite others to donate to our effort. Every dollar really does add up! If you would like brochures, pledge forms and return envelopes to mail out to family and friends, please give a call to the office.



I will donate 10% of all commissions earned from CSZ referrals to the new building Capital Campaign Fund



Deborah Udin
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email: deudin@aol.com

Contributions

AIDS Fund

Fifth Grade Religious School Class of
Temple Beth-El in South Bend, Indiana.

Bikkur Cholim Fund, in honor of Paul Cohen's 50th birthday

Bruce Cronander.

Claudia Bernard & Howard Herman.

Eric and Aaron Cooper-Keitel.

Leonie Darwin.

Michael Hackett & David Hale.

Samuel Tucker.

Lisa Ochs & Lea Salem.

Chesir-Stein Music Fund

Jonathan Funk & John Arnold, to
congratulate James Carlson on passing
his CPA exams.

Children's Education Fund

Ann Biderman, in memory of Louis
Greenspan.

Ida Kuluk, in honor of the arrival of
Miriam Zoe Katz.

Ron Lezell, in honor of Paul Cohen's 50th
birthday.

General Fund

Andrew Campbell, in memory of Robert L.
Parkin, Sr.

Bea Lieberman, in memory of Dr. John
Horowitz.

Bea Lieberman, in memory of Gershon
Lieberman.

Carolyn Pines & Judy Schwartz, in honor
of Paul Cohen's 50th birthday.

Dr. Jerome and Madelyn Wolfe, in honor
of Judith Wolfe's special birthday.

Gail Friedlander, in honor of Allan Gold's
birthday.

Jeff Sherman, in memory of Dorothy
Sanford and Miriam Kemp.

Jim Frazin, in memory of Bee Shapiro.

Jonathan Funk and John Arnold, in honor
of Rabbi Yoel Kahn's appointment as
Director of the B'nai Brith Hillel
Foundation at Stanford University.

Kenny Altman, in memory of Frieda
Altman.

Mike Siani.

Phyllis and George Mintzer, in memory of
Isaac Mintzer and Harry Opal.

Robin Leonard and Tory Weiser, in honor
of Allan Gold's 51st birthday.

Seth Charney, in memory of Morris
Charney.

Mishkan Dolores Fund

Nina and Ed Diamond, in honor of Paul
Cohen's 50th birthday.

Diane Cash, in honor of Jonathan Funk's
40th birthday.

Allan Gold, in honor of Paul Cohen's 50th
birthday.

Rindy & Martin Lasus, in honor of Paul
Cohen's 50th birthday.

Daniel Funk & Marcia Gittes, in honor of
Jonathan Funk's 40th birthday.

Richard Inlander, in honor of Adam
Inlander's certification as a Jewish
Communal Worker by Hebrew Union
College, Los Angeles.

Gloria & Dennis Berger, in honor of Paul
Cohen's 50th birthday.

Michael Whitman, in memory of Leo
Whitman.

Robert Daum & Frederick Fajardo, in
honor of Paul Cohen's 50th birthday.

Susan Unger & Pam Erwin, in honor of
Jonathan Funk's 40th birthday.

Jonathan Funk and John Arnold, in honor
of Ron & Sharon Lefkowitz.

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Ari & Melissa Grossman-Naples, in
appreciation of Rabbi Bergadine's
officiation at Doron's *brit milah*.

Alan Ferrara, in memory of his deceased
partner, Jon Peter Weisinger.

Robert K. Tat Oral History

Robert Tat, in honor of Paul Cohen's 50th
birthday.

Naches

To Jacob & Gina Rothman, on their
wedding.

To Jeanette Nichols, on her entrance
into the covenant.

To Sue Bojdak, on her entrance into
the covenant.

To Dan Bellm, on receiving a Literary
Fellowship for 1997-98 from the Califor-
nia Arts Council.

High Holidays

Continued from page 6

Congregation evening services, kids will
be brought to the main sanctuary and
returned to their parents' care.

On Rosh Hashanah day and Yom Kip-
pur day after the Junior Congregation
services, children aged seven to twelve
who are pre-registered may participate
in CSZ's High Holiday *Chug* until about
12:30 pm. The deadline for *Chug* registra-
tion has passed. Junior Congregation par-
ticipants who are not registered for High
Holiday *Chug* will be asked to join their
parents for the rest of the main service.

Please contact Rabbi Bergadine if you
have any questions about children's services.

For safety's sake, children must be in
childcare, High Holiday *Chug*, or their
parents' care when not in Preschool or
Junior Congregation services. There will
be a security guard at the First Congre-
gational Church to ensure that children
do not go unsupervised.

Childcare

Childcare reservation forms were
mailed out in August with a September
deadline, because of the need to arrange
for childcare workers in advance. The
childcare reservation deadline has passed.
Childcare is not provided to children
without prepaid reservations, and there
are no play areas outside of childcare.

Members' Yahrzeits

6	Frank Hyman
6	Jeffrey Miller
8	Duane Kearns Puryear
13	Clint Bigglestone
18	Henry Mautner
19	Rabbi Ben Marcus
24	Glenn Murray Miller
29	Michael Mohr

Classifieds

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romancing. Royal Drive Cottages. Bob Levine/
Sandy Meyers Ph/fax, 808/822-2321.

Children's Education

Continued from page 4

5. B'nai Mitzvah—Rabbi Bergadine reported that determination of curriculum is a front-burner priority. She will be meeting with Rabbi Litman, Phyllis Mintzer and the B'nai Mitzvah parents. She will also be establishing tutor guidance and responsibilities. (Note to CSZ members: Tutors are still needed!)

6. Agenda for Oct. 6—Primarily Sat./Sun. process discussion, plus reports on B'nai Mitzvah status, G/L/B content in curriculum, God content in curriculum, feedback on teaching staff, CEB make-up policy. Meetings are open to all and held on the first Monday of each month at 7 pm.

Condolences

We extend our condolences to members who have suffered recent losses:

Martin Spector, on the death of his father, Leon Spector.

The Hauptman Family, on the death of Steve's father, Trudi's father-in-law and Greer's grandfather, Michael Hauptman.

Lorraine Locke-Nacamulli, and Bob, Noah and Aaron Nacamulli, on the death of Lorraine's grandmother, Lena Erickson.

Allan Giannini, on the death of his former wife, Mary Lou Giannini.

HIV Support Group

CSZ has ongoing support services for members living with HIV/AIDS and their families and partners on the third Saturday of every month, in addition to quarterly Shabbat dinners at the homes of members. Mark your calendars:

Saturday, October 18 at 3 pm: Support Group at CSZ, facilitated by Rabbi Litman.

Friday, October 31 at 6 pm: Shabbat dinner, location TBA.

If you have any questions, would like to RSVP for Shabbat dinner or put your name on our confidential mailing list, please call the office.

Join us.

New Members

The Membership Committee is pleased to announce that our congregation gained the following new members this month. A warm welcome to the most recent people to join our family:

Danny Givertz

Marna Stein

Toby Dyner, Deborah Hamolsky, & Rachel Dyner-Hamolsky

Lou Hirschmann

Marissa Lopez & Dara Papo

Jeff Piade

Marjorie Hilsenrad

James Carlson

Marc Breindel

We are grateful that our congregation is growing. It is up to all of us to help our new members feel welcome as they become active participants in our community.

President's Column

Continued from page 2

ment, not just for me on a personal level, but for us as a community. We have embarked on a remarkable journey together. As we enter this new year, may we all have a year of peace, contentment and fulfillment. May we have a long and loving relationship with our new rabbi and our beautiful new home.

L'Shanah Tovah.

A Conversation With Chaim Potok

Chaim Potok, author of such books as *The Chosen*, *My Name is Asher Lev* and *The Gates of November*, and recent recipient of the National Jewish Book Award for Fiction, will be in San Francisco on Saturday, November 8. Mr. Potok will speak on "The Sanity of Stories: A Writer's Journey" at 8 pm at Congregation Emanu-El. Tickets are \$10 (\$6 for seniors and students) and are available through City Box Office, at 392-4400.

Oneg Sponsors

These generous people sponsored the Oneg Shabbat in recent months:

- 9/5 **Leon & Lilah Groisser**, in honor of Sarita Groisser's first time co-leading services.
- 9/12 **Ida Kuluk, Susan Spott & Evan Kuluk**, in honor of Jeanette Nichols' entrance into the covenant.
- 9/19 **Jaime Stier's** granddaughter, in his honor.
- 9/26 **Sue Bojdak and Debbie Yates**, in honor of Sue's entrance into the covenant.

INVENTORY SALE

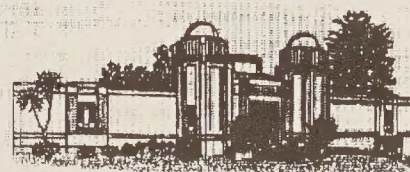


Congregation Sha'ar Zahav

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Synagogue Information

Rabbi Jane Litman

Rabbi Martha Bergadine,
Director of Education

Officers:

President, Diana Buchbinder

(337-6319 or

dbuchbin@puc.sf.ca.us)

First Vice President, David Gellman

Second Vice President, Susan

Tubbesing

Treasurer, Arthur Slepian

Recorder, Mark Bowers

Va'ad (Board) Members:

Michael Chertok

Ellie Cohen

Jeff Forman

Lyssa Friedman

Sara Haber

Joe Hample

Lisa Katz

Eileen Levy

Julie Moed

CSZ Staff:

Office Manager, Lea Salem

Kadimah Head Teacher, Phyllis Mintzer

Administrative Assistant, Amy Clark

Program Coordinator, Renée Bauer

Committee Chairs:

Adult Education, open

Archives, open

ARZA contact, Ron Lezell

Baby Chavurah, open

Bequests and Donations, Richard Inlander

Bikkur Cholim, David Shaber

Bisexual Chavurah, Jim Frazin

Book Circle, Mark Mackler

Brotherhood, Stephan Howard

Building, Mark Klaiman

Bylaws, Edward Pollock

Cemetery, Richard Inlander

Children's Education Board, Ruth Rainero

Cookbook Project, Robin Leonard

Dues Liaison, Sara Haber

East Bay Services, Hilary Zaid

Endowment Fund, Merry Luskin

Environmental Action, Barak Gale and Brian Besser

Finance, Arthur Slepian

Fine Arts, Alice Prussin

Gift Shop, Jeff Rubin

Infant-Toddler Chavurah, open

La'atid, Geoff Benjamin

Leadership Development, Irene Ogus and Paul Cohen

Library, open

Long-Range Planning, Allan Gold

Membership, Ami Zusman

Mishkan Dolores Campaign, Ellie Cohen

Newsletter, Robin Leonard

Oneg, Allan Giannini

Past Presidents Council, Merry Luskin

Personnel, Susan Tubbesing

Pre-school Chavurah, open

Public Relations, Sharyn Saslafsky

Rabbi Liaison, David Stein

Ritual, Ora Prochovnick

Social Action, Eloise Magenheimer

UAHC National Liaison, Mike Rankin

UAHC Regional Liaison, Daniel Chesir

WGLJO Liaison, Neil Grungras

Women's Chavurah, open

Members wishing to contact any Va'ad member or committee chair are invited to obtain his or her number from the synagogue office.

Office Hours: Monday–Friday from 9 am to 3 pm (861-6932).

Bikkur Cholim: If you or a friend who is a member of Sha'ar Zahav is ill in the hospital or at home, and would like to have a member of the Bikkur Cholim Committee call or visit, please notify the synagogue office.

Member of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations and of the World Congress of Gay and Lesbian Jewish Organizations.

Services are held every Friday evening beginning at 8:15 pm (except as noted), with an Oneg Shabbat following services.

Services are generally held on the second Saturday of each month at 10 am — check calendar for each month.

Gift Shop Hours: Fridays, 7:30–8:05 pm and by appointment

Library Hours: Open during office hours.

Congregation Sha'ar Zahav (Congregation of the Golden Gate) is located in the Upper Market District of San Francisco at 220 Danvers at Caselli, which is one block south of the intersection of 18th and Market streets. By public transport, take MUNI bus 33 Stanyan to 18th and Danvers and walk one block south on Danvers to Caselli.

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Birthdays

1	Elizabeth Sousa
2	Gregory Rubin
2	Sharyn Saslafsky
3	Miriam Katz
4	David Feinstein Shor
4	Richard Inlander
4	Mark Mackler
4	Julie Moed
5	Benjamin Bernard-Herman
7	Randy Heilbrunn
7	David Wasserman
7	Michael Zimmerman
8	Marc Cohen
9	Stephen Hauptman
11	Forrest Kincade
11	Lesley Levine
12	Debra Chasnoff
12	Jeffrey Lilly
13	Anna Desmond Bernstein
13	David Gellman
13	Brian Jersky
14	Michael Bettinger
14	Sharon Tanenbaum
15	Tsipora Prochovnick
16	William Denebeim
16	Joanne Hirschmann
16	Richard Meyerson
16	Anna Schwartz-Cohen
17	Deborah Hoffmann
17	Adam Sigal
18	Steven Horowitz
20	Donald Berger
20	Bernard Pechter
21	Charles Norton
22	Dee Hibbert-Jones
23	Roberta Achtenberg
23	Wanderson Carlos
23	Seth Charney
23	Ma'ayan Lieberman
24	Shuli Goodman
24	Rafael Klouczensky
24	Rachel Maclachlan
25	Alison Austin
25	Judith Cohen
25	Francine Frohlich
25	Julia Reiser Shorofsky
26	Ilana Bernstein
26	Susan Swigart
27	Bruce Henry
27	Sanford Lowe
28	Batya Billinkoff
28	Nina Hall
28	Rae Lorvick-Patt
28	Ilana Rainero-de Haan
29	Allan Berenstein
29	Pamela Miller
29	Neal Shorstein

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1 Wednesday
29 Elul
Rosh Hashanah begins at sundown
• Office closes early
• 6 pm, La'atid picnic dinner, Union Square, northwest corner
• 7:30 pm, Erev Rosh Hashanah services at First Congregational Church, 495 Post at Mason

2 Thursday
1 Tishri
• Office closed
• 9:30 am, Rosh Hashanah services at First Congregational Church, 495 Post at Mason

3 Friday
2 Tishri
• Office closed
• 9:30 am, Second Day Rosh Hashanah services at CSZ
• 8:15 pm, Shabbat service at CSZ, led by Daniel Chesir and Batya Kalis

4 Saturday
3 Tishri
• 9:30 am, Kadimah

5 Sunday
4 Tishri
• 10 am, Cemetery visit, Hills of Eternity
• Noon, Women's Mikvah class, part 2, 3355 Sacramento St.

6 Monday
5 Tishri
• 6 pm, Healing service
• 7 pm, Children's Education Board

7 Tuesday
6 Tishri
• 6:30 pm, Dues Committee

8 Wednesday
7 Tishri
• 7 pm, Architecture and Design Committee

9 Thursday
8 Tishri

10 Friday
9 Tishri
• Office closes early
• 7:30 pm, Kol Nidre services at First Congregational Church, 495 Post at Mason

11 Saturday
10 Tishri
• 9:30 am, Yom Kippur services at First Congregational Church, 495 Post at Mason

12 Sunday
11 Tishri

13 Monday
12 Tishri
• 6:30 pm, Va'ad

14 Tuesday
13 Tishri

15 Wednesday
14 Tishri
• Sukkot begins

16 Thursday
15 Tishri
Sukkot
• Office closed
• 7 pm, Bikkur Cholim
• 7 pm, Newsletter editing

17 Friday
16 Tishri
• 6 pm, Shabbat dinner: B'nei Mitzvah
• 8:15 pm, East Bay service
• 8:15pm, Shabbat service led by Rabbi Litman and Larry Wexler

18 Saturday
17 Tishri
• 9:30 am, Kadimah Family Program
• 10 am, Service at the home of Ora Prochovnick and Rena Frantz, 47 Cuvier St., SF, led by Brain Besser
• 3 pm, HIV support group
• New Israel Fund dinner honoring Ron Lezell

19 Sunday
18 Tishri
• 11:30 am, Tot Sukkot at the home of Ora Prochovnick and Rena Frantz, 47 Cuvier St., SF
• 5 pm, Sukkot potluck and service at Rabbi Litman's home (call the office for directions)

20 Monday
19 Tishri
• 6 pm, Healing service
• 7 pm, Membership Committee
• 7 pm, Newsletter proofreading and layout

21 Tuesday
20 Tishri

22 Wednesday
21 Tishri
• 7 pm, Simchat Torah service led by Tiela Chalmers, Daniel Chesir and Ora Prochovnick
• 9 pm, Torah processional from Danvers St. to Dolores St.

23 Thursday
22 Tishri
Simchat Torah
• Office closed

24 Friday
23 Tishri
• 8:15 pm, Final Shabbat service at CSZ, led by Jonathan Pannor and Dev Felder Noily; Rabbi Litman delivers sermon

25 Saturday
24 Tishri
• 9:30 am, Kadimah

26 Sunday
25 Tishri

27 Monday
26 Tishri

28 Tuesday
27 Tishri

29 Wednesday
28 Tishri
• UAHC Convention, Dallas

30 Thursday
29 Tishri
• UAHC Convention, Dallas
• 6:30 pm, Ritual Committee
• 7 pm, Newsletter distribution

31 Friday
30 Tishri
• UAHC Convention, Dallas
• 6 pm, HIV group dinner
• 8:15 pm, Shabbat service led by Sarita Groisser and Nicole Bloom

1 Saturday, November 1
1 Heshvan
• UAHC Convention, Dallas
• 9:30 am, Kadimah
• 7 pm, Prospective Members' Havdallah

Note: Gray areas indicate religious services.

NOVEMBER FORWARD DEADLINES

FOR ADVERTISING MONDAY, OCTOBER 6

To place a display ad, call Roslyn Fuerman (510/526-1209 or froslyn@aol.com). To place a classified ad, call the office.

FOR ARTICLES MONDAY, OCTOBER 13

Please submit articles both on 3½-inch disk and hard copy on paper double spaced. Write "Attn. Gaily Forward" on top and mail to CSZ. No deadline extensions without advance permission of the editorial coordinator, Robin Leonard, at 841-0262 or robinl@nolo.com.

East Bay Services

10/17 Location TBA; call Hilary Zaid at 510/654-8907

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